addition, non-plan budgetary support of Rs.60 lakhs has also been released for payment of salaries and wages to the employees for two months beyond the obligation in the sanctioned scheme. The Government of west Bengal has also given the relief and concessions envisaged in the revival schemes.

Closing down of Six PSUs in West Bengal

1489. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to close down six public sector undertakings based in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the names of the Undertakings;

(c) whether any serious efforts had been made to revive these undertakings before closing them down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of workers likely to be affected and the steps proposed to be taken to provide them alternative employment?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) Government had decided to take action for closure of six unviable PSEs after considering the recommendations of the Expert Group about the univiability of the companies as PSEs and the fact that earlier efforts for revival through other options including privitisation/joint venture formation have not been successful. This includes 4 PSEs located in West Bengal namely Mining & Alled Machinery corporaton (MAMC), Rehabilitation Industries corporation (RIC), weighbird India Limited (WIL) and Bharat Process and Mechnical engineers limited (BPMEL). These PSEs were facing the possibility of winding up consequent to the preliminary/final view of BIFR/ Expert Agency. As a safety net, Voluntary Separation scheme (VSS) has been introduced extending the benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) which are substantially higher than the compensation available under the ID Act in the event of winding up/closure.

New Automobile Policy

1490. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are coming out with a New Automobile Policy;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be announced;

(c) what are the highlights of this policy.

(d) whether Government are taking steps to protect the local components industry; and

(e) what will be the fate of small scale industries in Automobile Sector under the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. The policy is under formulation and will be announced once it is finalised?

Full-time Directors in BBUNL

1491. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PULIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of full-time Directors including Managing Directors in Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL) and its subsidiaries;

(b) the remuneration paid to them during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, subsidiary-wise;

(c) the travelling expenses, both inland and foreign, for Directors of BBUNL as well as its subsidiaries during the last three years; and

(d) the service charges paid to BBUNL during the last three years, subsidiary-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Details are given in Statement-I to IV.

Statement-I

Number of full time Directors including the Managing Directors.

S.No.	Name of the public sector	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	M/s Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited(BBUNL), Calcutta	5	5	5
2.	M/s Burn Standard & Company Limited (BSCL), Calcutta	4	3	4